

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1644
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
TELEPHONE FACILITY
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that the Government plan to provide 100 million telephones by 2004; and
- (b) if so, the strategy being chalked out in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SIKDAR)

- (a) Government has planned to have a status of approximately 651 lakh telephones (both fixed & Mobile) by 2004 as per Perspective Plan 2000-2010 including the contribution of Private Sector.
- (b) As enunciated in New Telecom Policy '99', Government has already opened up the Telecom Sector to the Private Sector and licences have been issued for 'Basic Services' and 'Cellular Services'.